

RECEIVED**Glenda Wiles****JUL 30 2007****From:** Julie Foster [julie@rceda.org]**Ravalli County Commissioners****Sent:** Friday, July 27, 2007 12:12 PM
To: Allen Bjergo; Bob Thomas; Chad DeLong; Diane Wolfe; Greg Chilcott; James Rokosch; Monte Drake; 'Patti Furniss'; Ryan Oster; Alan Thompson; Carlotta Grandstaff; Glenda Wiles; Kathleen Driscoll

Subject: City of Hamilton Funding Request - General Update

Hello Everyone,

Thursday evening I attended the Hamilton City Finance Committee meeting to request that the City help fund economic development, RCEDA. The request was for \$3,891. Mike LaSalle and Robert Sutherland were the Committee members attending and they voted to recommend to the City Council that the City of Hamilton support RCEDA with \$4,000. :-) Mike LaSalle said that our report spoke for itself. I have attached the report which will be included with the additional information to the full council. The RCEDA request will be heard during the August 7th Council Meeting agenda.

Important Dates:

Project Committee Meeting, August 15th at 2:30 PM - First Interstate Bank. Todd from Professional Impressions will be attending to help us with our brochure. Please join us if you have the time. If you don't and have any input please email it before that date.

Other news:

RCEDA has requested an economic impact analysis from Susan Ockert, the Senior Research Economist at the State of Montana, on GSK's impact on Ravalli County. She is going to do it and we are in the process of gathering the needed information.

RCEDA was asked by Maverick Marketing and Farmers State Bank to be a sponsor for their October 2nd event which will feature a speaker from the Kauffman Foundation and the Sonoran Institute. This is a very nice honor and I'll share more information as soon as I receive it.

The *Final Draft Report* to the Economic Development Administration, the business plan for the Entrepreneurship Center is due 7/31. We are not quite ready, if I don't get it done over the weekend I'll be hiding out most of Monday, and some of Tuesday to complete. The good news is that it is really starting to take shape and is going to be a very useful strategic plan.

Bitterroot Composite Lumber Company is making considerable headway in their quest to raise the \$1 million in equity necessary to get this \$8 million dollar project going. If you have any opportunity to suggest a possible investor or mention this venture please do so.

The Senior Housing Cooperative Project, a \$7 to \$10 million dollar development, is going well. Two of Senator Tester's Field Directors, Brian Gion from the Montana Cooperative Development Center, and Bill Carey, Missoula County Commissioner, Paul and myself met on July 24th to explain the Cooperative Housing model to Senator Tester's staff members. It was a very successful meeting and they were going to share the information with the Senator this week. Our request from Senator Tester is to help by setting up some funding to help get this model established in Montana. Paul Travitz' Board has granted Paul (Ravalli County Council on Aging) \$6,500 to proceed with the project planning. We are working to get a portion of that matched through the Montana Cooperative Development Center.

That's all for now! Have a super weekend.

Cheers
Julie

7/30/2007